# NOAA 

 FISHERIESAlaska Fisheries<br>Science Center

## Assessment of Pacific cod in the eastern Bering Sea

## Data highlights

## EBS, NBS shelf survey abundance (no. of fish)

- EBS has dropped 78\% since 2014; 2018 EBS is all-time low


NOAA FISHERIES

## EBS, NBS shelf survey biomass

- EBS has dropped 54\% since 2014


NOAA FISHERIES

## EBS shelf survey size composition

- 2017 below mean until $52 \mathrm{~cm} ; 2018$ below mean until 63 cm



## EBS+NBS shelf survey size composition

- 2017 below mean until $50 \mathrm{~cm} ; 2018$ below mean until 54 cm



## Model structures

## List of models

- Following evaluation of the results, these model numbers were assigned:
- Model 16.6 (previously numbered, requested by Team and SSC)
- Model 16.6i (requested by SSC only)
- Model 16.6j (requested by Team and SSC)
- Model 16.6k (requested by Team and SSC)
- Model 17.2 (previously numbered, requested by Team and SSC)
- Model 18.6 (requested by Team and SSC)
- Model 18.7 (added by author)
- Model 18.8 (added by author)


## Model features

- First rows list data sets that are included in the models
- Middle rows describe various ways in which $Q$ is treated in the models
- Last rows describe miscellaneous features in three of the models

| Feaure | 16.6 | 16.6 i | 16.6j | 16.6k | 17.2 | 18.6 | 18.7 | 18.8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| EBS survey strata 82 and 90 |  | X | X | X |  | X | X | X |
| NBS survey as separate data set |  |  |  | X |  | X | X | X |
| Summed EBS and NBS data sets |  | X | x |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fishery agecomps |  |  |  |  | X | x |  | X |
| EBS catchability estimated | X |  |  | X | X | X |  |  |
| Annnually varying EBS catchability |  |  |  | X |  | X | X | x |
| NBS catchability estimated |  |  |  | X |  | X |  |  |
| Annnually varying NBS catchability |  |  |  | X |  | X | x | X |
| EBS + NBS catchability estimated |  | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| Annually varying EBS+NBS catchability |  |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prior distribution for natural mortality |  |  |  |  | X | X |  | X |
| Flat-topped double normal selectivity |  |  |  |  | X | X |  | X |
| Annually varying fishery selectivity |  |  |  |  | X | X |  | X |
| Composition $\mathrm{N}=$ number of hauls |  |  |  |  | X | X |  | X |
| Harmonic mean composition weights |  |  |  |  | X | X |  | X |

## Results

## Effective N: Models 16.6 and 16.6x (Table 2.14)

|  |  | Model 16.6 |  |  |  |  |  | Model 16.6i |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type | Fleet | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | 2Neff1 | 2Neff2 | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | 2Neff1 | $\Sigma$ Neff2 |
| Size | Fishery | 42 | 300 | 1.0000 | 559 | 12599 | 23459 | 42 | 300 | 1.0000 | 583 | 12600 | 24502 |
| Size | EBS(std) survey | 37 | 300 | 1.0000 | 312 | 11098 | 11527 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |
| Size | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Size | NBS survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Size | EBS(exp)+NBS | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | n/a | 37 | 300 | 1.0000 | 321 | 11101 | 11886 |
| Age | Fishery | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | EBS(std) survey | 24 | 300 | 1.0000 | 62 | 7203 | 1495 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 24 | 300 | 1.0000 | 61 | 7200 | 1456 |
|  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |
| Index | EBS(std) survey | 37 | 353 | 0.1065 | 0.1917 | 13061 | 4028 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Index | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Index | NBS survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Index | EBS(exp)+NBS | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 37 | 378 | 0.1056 | 0.1819 | 13986 | 4717 |
|  |  |  |  |  | Sum: | 43961 | 40509 |  |  |  | Sum: | 44887 | 42561 |


|  |  | Model 16.6j |  |  |  |  |  | Model 16.6k |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type | Fleet | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | 2Neff1 | 2Neff2 | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | 2Neff1 | 2Neff2 |
| Size | Fishery | 42 | 300 | 1.0000 | 581 | 12600 | 24404 | 42 | 300 | 1.0000 | 582 | 12600 | 24427 |
| Size | EBS(std) survey | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | n/a | n/a | n/a | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Size | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 37 | 300 | 1.0000 | 317 | 11101 | 11724 |
| Size | NBS survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3 | 300 | 1.0000 | 82 | 900 | 246 |
| Size | EBS(exp)+NBS | 37 | 300 | 1.0000 | 321 | 11101 | 11869 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | Fishery | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | EBS(std) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | EBS(exp) survey | 24 | 300 | 1.0000 | 61 | 7200 | 1468 | 24 | 300 | 1.0000 | 60 | 7200 | 1429 |
|  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |
| Index | EBS(std) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Index | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 37 | 371 | 0.1054 | 0.1053 | 13727 | 13734 |
| Index | NBS survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3 | 89 | 0.1623 | 0.1624 | 267 | 267 |
| Index | EBS(exp)+NBS | 37 | 378 | 0.1056 | 0.1056 | 13986 | 13989 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
|  |  |  |  |  | Sum: | 44887 | 51730 |  |  |  | Sum: | 45795 | 51828 |

## Effective $N$ : Models 17.2 and 18.x (Table 2.14)

|  |  | Model 17.2 |  |  |  |  |  | Model 18.6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type | Fleet | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | 2Neff1 | \Neff2 | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | 2Neff1 | 2Neff2 |
| Size | Fishery | 34 | 5225 | 0.2517 | 1315 | 44713 | 44724 | 34 | 5225 | 0.2549 | 1332 | 45283 | 45278 |
| Size | EBS(std) survey | 37 | 332 | 0.8871 | 295 | 10904 | 10904 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Size | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 37 | 346 | 0.8701 | 301 | 11139 | 11144 |
| Size | NBS survey | n/a | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3 | 68 | 1.3015 | 89 | 266 | 266 |
| Size | EBS(exp)+NBS | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | Fishery | 8 | 9516 | 0.0273 | 260 | 2078 | 2082 | 8 | 9516 | 0.0292 | 279 | 2223 | 2230 |
| Age | EBS(std) survey | 24 | 342 | 0.1402 | 48 | 1151 | 1151 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 24 | 359 | 0.1281 | 46 | 1104 | 1104 |
|  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |
| Index | EBS(std) survey | 37 | 353 | 0.1065 | 0.2065 | 13061 | 3474 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Index | EBS(exp) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 37 | 371 | 0.1054 | 0.1054 | 13727 | 13719 |
| Index | NBS survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3 | 89 | 0.1623 | 0.1624 | 267 | 267 |
| Index | EBS(exp)+NBS | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
|  |  |  |  |  | Sum: | 71907 | 62336 |  |  |  | Sum: | 74008 | 74007 |


|  |  | Model 18.7 |  |  |  |  |  | Model 18.8 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type | Fleet | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | ENeff1 | ENeff2 | Years | N | Mult. | Harm. | 2Neff1 | 2Neff2 |
| Size | Fishery | 42 | 300 | 1.0000 | 569 | 12600 | 23917 | 34 | 5225 | 0.2398 | 1253 | 42600 | 42605 |
| Size | EBS(std) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Size | EBS(exp) survey | 37 | 300 | 1.0000 | 317 | 11100 | 11728 | 37 | 346 | 0.8841 | 306 | 11318 | 11324 |
| Size | NBS survey | 3 | 300 | 1.0000 | 81 | 900 | 244 | 3 | 68 | 1.2940 | 88 | 264 | 264 |
| Size | EBS(exp)+NBS | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | Fishery | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 8 | 9516 | 0.0324 | 309 | 2467 | 2470 |
| Age | EBS(std) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Age | EBS(exp) survey | 24 | 300 | 1.0000 | 59 | 7200 | 1416 | 24 | 359 | 0.1239 | 45 | 1068 | 1068 |
|  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |  |  | SEave | RMSE |  |  |
| Index | EBS(std) survey | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Index | EBS(exp) survey | 37 | 371 | 0.1054 | 0.1054 | 13727 | 13720 | 37 | 371 | 0.1054 | 0.1053 | 13727 | 13729 |
| Index | NBS survey | 3 | 89 | 0.1623 | 0.1623 | 267 | 267 | 3 | 89 | 0.1623 | 0.1624 | 267 | 267 |
| Index | EBS(exp)+NBS | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
|  |  |  |  |  | Sum: | 45794 | 51292 |  |  |  | Sum: | 71711 | 71727 |

## Common parameters (subset of Table 2.16)

| Quantity | Model 16.6 |  | Model 16.6i |  | Model 16.6j |  | Model 16.6k |  | Model 17.2 |  | Model 18.6 |  | Model 18.7 |  | Model 18.8 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Est. | StD. | Est. | StD | Est. | StD. | Est. | StD. | Est. | StD. | Est. | StD | Est. | StD. | Est. | StD |
| Natural mortality (M) | 0.354 | 0.012 | 0.340 | 0.012 | 0.340 | 0.013 | 0.345 | 0.013 | 0.356 | 0.020 | 0.364 | 0.023 | 0.398 | 0.007 | 0.471 | 0.011 |
| Length at age 1.5 (cm) | 16.358 | 0.087 | 16.377 | 0.088 | 16.378 | 0.089 | 16.423 | 0.088 | 16.458 | 0.091 | 16.479 | 0.091 | 16.418 | 0.088 | 16.468 | 0.090 |
| Asymptotic length (cm) | 100.60 | 1.952 | 100.62 | 1.955 | 100.71 | 1.986 | 100.09 | 1.850 | 109.05 | 1.923 | 108.79 | 1.915 | 98.444 | 1.666 | 106.34 | 1.629 |
| Brody growth coefficient (K) | 0.196 | 0.012 | 0.195 | 0.012 | 0.194 | 0.012 | 0.202 | 0.012 | 0.175 | 0.009 | 0.176 | 0.009 | 0.201 | 0.011 | 0.182 | 0.009 |
| Richards growth coefficient | 1.036 | 0.047 | 1.039 | 0.047 | 1.043 | 0.047 | 1.008 | 0.045 | 1.041 | 0.038 | 1.036 | 0.038 | 1.046 | 0.04 | 1.032 | 0.037 |
| SD of length at age $1(\mathrm{~cm}$ ) | 3.447 | 0.057 | 3.456 | 0.058 | 3.457 | 0.058 | 3.468 | 0.058 | 3.488 | 0.058 | 3.495 | 0.058 | 3.474 | 0.05 | 3.496 | 0.057 |
| SD of length at age 20 (cm) | 9.622 | 0.272 | . 532 | 0.272 | . 509 | 0.274 | 9.250 | 0.259 | . 037 | 0.234 | 8.907 | 0.230 | 9.169 | 0.252 | 8.773 | 0.220 |
| Ageing bias at age 1 | 0.337 | 0.012 | 0.335 | 0.012 | 0.335 | 0.013 | 0.335 | 0.013 | 0.340 | 0.029 | 0.334 | 0.031 | 0.347 | 0.011 | 0.347 | 0.02 |
| Ageing bias at age 20 | 0.198 | 0.143 | 0.157 | . 145 | 0.133 | 0.146 | 0.166 | . 145 | -0.491 | 0.191 | -0.547 | 0.197 | 0.126 | 0.140 | -0.793 | 0.200 |
| $\ln$ (mean post-1976 recruits) | 13.047 | 0.099 | 12.984 | 0.097 | 12.986 | 0.106 | 12.972 | 0.104 | 12.948 | 0.136 | 13.006 | 0.160 | 13.413 | 0.05 | 13.848 | 0.070 |
| SD of $\ln$ (recruitment) devs | 0.684 | 0.072 | 0.656 | 0.067 | 0.655 | 0.067 | 0.637 | 0.063 | 0.645 |  | 0.634 |  | 0.604 | 0.059 | 0.661 |  |
| $\ln$ (pre-1977 recruits offset) | -1.120 | 0.216 | -1.158 | 0.201 | -1.147 | 0.203 | -1.106 | 0.200 | -1.465 | 0.053 | -1.467 | 0.068 | -0.867 | 0.21 | -1.215 | 0.232 |
| Initial fishing mortality rate | 0.107 | 0.033 | 0.190 | 0.075 | 0.186 | 0.073 | 0.186 | 0.071 | 0.866 | 0.706 | 0.738 | 0.582 | 0.120 | 0.037 | 0.212 | 0.097 |

- Parameters with notably wide ranges:
- $M$ : ratio of max to $\min =1.38$
- In(mean post-1976 $R$ ): back-transformed ratio of max to $\min =2.46$
- In(pre-1977 $R$ offset): back-transformed ratio of $\max$ to $\min =1.82$
- Initial $F$ : ratio of $\max$ to $\min =8.07$

NOAA FISHERIES

## Fit to survey abundance index






## Time-aggregated agecomp fits: M16.6, M16.6x




Model 16.6j
Model 16.6k


## Time-aggregated agecomp fits: M17.2, M18.x




Model 18.7


## Time-aggregated sizecomp fits: M16.6, M16.6x




Model 16.6j


## Time-aggregated sizecomp fits: M17.2, M18.x



## Age 0 recruitment deviations



## Catchability



## Depletion



## Total (age 0+) biomass



## Fishery selectivity



## Survey selectivity

EBS (standard)


NBS


EBS (expanded)


EBS (expanded) + NBS


## Choice of final model

## Criteria and choice of final model

- The following criteria were used to choose the final model:
- Are catchability estimates plausible?
- Is retrospective performance acceptable?
- Are changes in the complexity of model structure justified?
- Are changes in model structure appropriately incremental?
- Evaluation of the eight models with respect to the above criteria resulted in a choice of Model 16.6i as the final model, as described on the following slides


## Evaluation with respect to criterion \#1 (1 of 2)

- Because the EBS and NBS surveys take place at nearly the same time and in disjoint areas, the estimated catchability in each area should approximate the relative survey abundance in each area

| Quantity | EBS(std) |  | EBS(exp) |  |  |  | NBS |  |  |  | EBS+NBS |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 16.6 | 17.2 | 16.6k | 18.6 | 18.7 | 18.8 | 16.6k | 18.6 | 18.7 | 18. | 16.6i | 16.6j |
| 2010 Rel. Abund | 0.98 | 0.98 | . 99 | . 99 | 0.99 | 0.9 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.0 | 1.00 | 100 |
| 2010 Catchability | 0.97 | 1.14 | 1.07 | 1.23 | 0.79 | 0.85 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 1.03 | 1.06 |
| 2010 Abs. Diff. | . 01 | 0.16 | 0.07 | 0.24 | 0.21 | 0.14 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.0 |
| Rel. Abund | 0.69 | 0. | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 27 | 0.27 | 1.00 |  |
| 2017 Catchability | 0.97 | 1.14 | 0.93 | 1.08 | 0.67 | 0.6 | 0.37 | 0.60 | 0.28 | 0.3 | 1.03 | . 09 |
| 2017 Abs. Diff. | 0.28 | 0.45 | 0.20 | 0.35 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.10 | 0.33 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 0.03 | 0.0 |
| 8 Rel. Abund | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.50 | . 50 | 0.50 | 0.5 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.5 | 1.00 | . 00 |
| 2018 Catchability | 0.97 | 1.14 | 0.89 | 1.09 | 0.64 | 0.67 | 0.81 | 1.35 | 0.64 | 0.8 | 1.03 | 1.17 |
| 2018 Abs. Diff. | . 48 | 0.65 | 0.39 | 0.58 | 0.13 | 0.1 | 0.32 | 0.85 | 0.15 | 0.3 | 0.03 | 0.1 |
| All RMSD | 0.32 | 0.4 | 0.26 | 0.42 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.19 | 0.53 | 0.09 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 0.10 |

## Evaluation with respect to criterion \#1 (2 of 2)

- The table on the preceding slide illustrates why Models 18.7 and 18.8 were added to the set of models for this assessment:
- Their closest counterparts, Models 16.6k and 18.6 respectively, tended not to satisfy the desired approximations
- More specifically, Models 16.6k and 18.6 tended to estimate area-specific $Q s$ much larger than the respective area-specific relative abundances, particularly in 2017 and 2018 when EBS survey abundances were smallest and NBS survey abundances were largest
- The lowest RMSD is obtained by Model 16.6i (0.03 for the combined areas), followed by Model 16.6j ( 0.10 for the combined areas) and Model 18.7 ( 0.14 for the EBS expanded area and 0.09 for the NBS)


## Evaluation with respect to criterion \#2

- Comparing realized values of Mohn's $\rho$ to the "acceptable" range implied by Hurtado-Ferro et al. (2015):

| Model: | 16.6 | 16.6 i | 16.6 j | 16.6 k | 17.2 | 18.6 | 18.7 | 18.8 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\rho:$ | 0.315 | 0.207 | 0.288 | 0.397 | 0.475 | 0.555 | 0.301 | 0.477 |
| M: | 0.354 | 0.340 | 0.340 | 0.345 | 0.356 | 0.364 | 0.398 | 0.471 |
| Min: | -0.204 | -0.199 | -0.199 | -0.201 | -0.205 | -0.207 | -0.219 | -0.245 |
| Max: | 0.277 | 0.270 | 0.270 | 0.273 | 0.278 | 0.282 | 0.299 | 0.335 |

- Model 16.6i exhibits the lowest value among all the models
- Model 16.6i also exhibits the only value that falls within the acceptable range implied by Hurtado-Ferro et al. (2015)
- Although the value exhibited by Model 18.7 is extremely close to the upper end of the range

NOAA FISHERIES

## Evaluation with respect to criterion \#3 (1 of 2)

- Although the alternative models include many changes from the base model, not all of them constitute changes in structural complexity
- For example, the only difference between Models 16.6 and 16.6 i is that the latter uses the combined EBS expanded area and NBS surveys in lieu of the EBS standard area survey used in the former
- The features that would most likely qualify as changes in structural complexity are:
a. Addition of a second survey, with concomitant need to estimate an additional $Q$ and selectivity parameters (16.6k, 18.6-18.8)
b. Addition of randomly time-varying $Q$ (16.6j, 16.6k, 18.6-18.8)
c. Addition of randomly time-varying fishery selectivity (17.2, 18.6/8)


## Evaluation with respect to criterion \#3 (2 of 2)

- The SSC minutes from June 2018 offer guidance on justifying additional complexity: "Existing assessments should be periodically evaluated for 'complexity creep' and consistency with similar assessments"
- Assume that "similar assessments" means "Tier 3 BSAl assessments"
- Features "a" through "c" on the previous slide can be evaluated with respect to similar assessments as follows:
a. Some similar assessments include multiple surveys (typically bottom trawl surveys of the EBS shelf, EBS slope, or AI)
b. Few, if any, similar assessments include randomly time-varying $Q$
c. Some assessments include randomly time-varying fishery selectivity
- Given the above, the only models that have levels of complexity consistent with similar assessments are Models 16.6, 16.6i, and 17.2


## Evaluation with respect to criterion \#4 (1 of 2)

- The SSC has often expressed a preference for incremental changes in model structure:
- SSC minutes, 6/12: "...The SSC encourages the authors to evaluate changes in one or a few structural elements at a time."
- SSC minutes, 6/13: "...The SSC recommends that model changes be kept to a minimum to ensure that we can track model sensitivities to specific changes in model structure."
- SSC minutes, 12/13: "...The SSC discussed the need for a more incremental approach to implementing changes to the model...."
- SSC minutes, 12/15: "...The SSC has repeatedly stressed the need to incrementally evaluate model changes...."


## Evaluation with respect to criterion \#4 (2 of 2)

- Given the relatively stable level of the combined EBS and NBS survey biomass over the last few years (Figure 2.6), the stock does not appear to be in an emergency situation that might render an incremental approach inappropriate
- On the contrary, given the uncertain effects of the large and potentially unprecedented movements of Pacific cod from the EBS and NBS that appear to have taken place in the last few years, an incremental approach to changes in model structure might be especially important at this particular time, with the understanding that additional changes may be called for in the future as more information becomes available
- While it is difficult to determine exactly which of the eight candidate models in this assessment qualify as involving only incremental changes in model structure, it is clear that Model 16.6 would qualify by definition, and Model 16.6 i would likely qualify also


## Final recommendations

## Projections

- This year's assessment used Stock Synthesis to make all projections, rather than the formerly standard AFSC software
- Allowed responding to the SSC request to present the distribution of F2019/F35\%, conditional on the choice of final model and the assumption that 2019 catch will equal the point estimate of maxABC



## Reasons for not setting $A B C<m a x A B C$ (1 of 2)

- SSC guidance
- Last year, when the SSC concluded that no reduction was warranted:
- Combined EBS+NBS survey biomass was down 5\%
- Persistence of NBS biomass was unknown
- Genetic relationship between EBS and NBS fish was unknown
- This year:
- Combined EBS+NBS survey biomass is up 15\%
- Persistence of NBS biomass has been corroborated
- EBS and NBS fish have been shown to be genetically similar
- 2019 maxABC is already down significantly from 2018 ABC (-10\%)
- With an even bigger drop from 2019 to $2020(-24 \%)$


## Reasons for not setting $A B C<m a x A B C$ (2 of 2)

- Difficulty in navigating the new rules
- How to map risk matrix "concerns" into reductions without violating new prohibition against including socioeconomic concerns in $A B C$ ?
- If it is just a matter of adjusting $A B C$ to account for a retrospective bias, this might not be too hard, but M16.6i's retrospective bias is low
- What is gained/lost by various reductions, and how to choose an objective that does not involve socioeconomic concerns?
- E.g., is dropping from $B_{20.01 \%}$ to $B_{19.99 \%}$ a concern because it critically impacts sea lions, or because directed fishery closes?
- E.g., given $F=\max _{A B C}$, biomass decreases through 2022, but given $F=F_{60 \%}$, biomass still decreases through 2022

NOAA FISHERIES

## Management reference points

| Year | Quantity | M16.6 | M16.6i | M16.6j | M16.6k | M17.2 | M18.6 | M18.7 | M18.8 |
| :---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| n/a | B100\% | 623,000 | 658,000 | 656,000 | 623,000 | 609,000 | 598,000 | 594,000 | 556,000 |
| n/a | B40\% | 249,000 | 263,000 | 263,000 | 249,000 | 244,000 | 239,000 | 238,000 | 222,000 |
| n/a | B35\% | 218,000 | 230,000 | 230,000 | 218,000 | 213,000 | 209,000 | 208,000 | 195,000 |
| n/a | F40\% | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.38 | 0.46 |
| n/a | F35\% | 0.40 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.47 | 0.58 |
| 2019 | Female spawning biomass | 195,000 | 290,000 | 283,000 | 206,000 | 141,000 | 145,000 | 290,000 | 249,000 |
| 2019 | Relative spawning biomass | 0.23 | 0.44 | 0.43 | 0.33 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.49 | 0.45 |
| 2019 | Pr(B/B100\%<0.2) | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2019 | maxFABC | 0.25 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.25 | 0.17 | 0.18 | 0.38 | 0.46 |
| 2019 | maxABC | 103,000 | 181,000 | 177,000 | 111,000 | 53,900 | 59,900 | 212,000 | 216,000 |
| 2019 | Catch | 103,000 | 181,000 | 177,000 | 111,000 | 53,900 | 59,900 | 206,000 | 208,000 |
| 2019 | FOFL | 0.31 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.31 | 0.21 | 0.22 | 0.47 | 0.58 |
| 2019 | OFL | 123,000 | 216,000 | 211,000 | 132,000 | 60,900 | 72,000 | 253,000 | 257,000 |
| 2019 | Pr(maxABC>truOFL) | 0.24 | 0.07 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.30 | 0.32 | 0.03 | 0.07 |
| 2020 | Female spawning biomass | 176,000 | 246,000 | 240,000 | 187,000 | 146,000 | 148,000 | 221,000 | 180,000 |
| 2020 | Relative spawning biomass | 0.20 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.30 | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.37 | 0.32 |
| 2020 | Pr(B/B100\%<0.2) | 0.38 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2020 | maxFABC | 0.22 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.23 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.35 | 0.37 |
| 2020 | maxABC | 78,900 | 137,000 | 131,000 | 86,100 | 53,800 | 58,600 | 144,000 | 123,000 |
| 2020 | Catch | 78,900 | 137,000 | 131,000 | 86,100 | 53,800 | 58,600 | 144,000 | 123,000 |
| 2020 | FOFL | 0.28 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.28 | 0.21 | 0.23 | 0.44 | 0.46 |
| 2020 | OFL | 94,800 | 164,000 | 157,000 | 103,000 | 64,600 | 70,400 | 173,000 | 147,000 |
| 2020 | Pr(maxABC>truOFL) | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.34 | 0.22 | 0.31 |

